



garden cuttings

a monthly newsletter for the discerning gardener

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Travelling south

A visit to Tasmania earlier this year produced so much material (some has had to be held over to a later issue) that my remarks this month have to be brief.

I said in our first issue that we would make no apologies for returning, again and again, to conservation issues, and we are pleased therefore to publish an excellent article on the Tasmanian forests, sent to us by the Tasmanian Wilderness Society. The message is very clear, and the dedicated people who run this Society, on a purely voluntary basis, deserve - and should have - the support of us all. The basic issues involved here extend far outside Tasmania.

We also feature three Tasmanian nurseries, each quite different yet possessing certain qualities that make them worth writing about. We would like to hear from more small nurseries, especially those which some unusual or rare plants to offer. Some of these seem to be publicity shy, for some reason. Perhaps they will now be encouraged to come out into the open and tell us something about themselves.

TIM NORTH



A DUBIOUS END TO ONCE GREAT FOREST.

Tasmanian forests

contributed by Tim O'Loughlin,
Tasmanian Wilderness Society

Tasmania is unique in Australia in being the only state with a large forest cover of over 40%, mainland Australia having an average of approximately 4%. This puts Tasmania on a par with other more forested areas such as Canada (45%).

Tasmania's vegetation cover comprises approximately 2000 flowering plants, of which about 200 are endemic, (i.e. only found in Tasmania). The flora can be divided into two components:

1) Antarctic/Oceanic flora: characterised by the similarities it has with other 'Southern landmass' flora: In times past the continents of Australia, New Zealand, South America were joined together in the one landmass - Gondwana land; this super-continent on breaking up into the present continents still retained some similarities amongst its vegetation. Similar plants can still be found in the temperate rainforests of all 3 landmasses. However, climatic change and the introduction of the second floral group has restricted and altered the habitat of these more primitive plants.

2) Australian flora: This group is characterised by the pyrogenic (fire-generated) plants; Wattles, Eucalypts and Peas. The origins of this vegetation type are much more recent and the prevalence of these species is thought to be due to the long-term effect of fire on the Australian landscape.

Temperate rainforest only occurs when rainfall exceeds 1500mm throughout the year. A reasonably constant humidity is also required. These conditions are met mainly in the west of the state which catches the full brunt of the moist southerly air stream. Smaller areas also occur in the North-East Highlands. These areas contain many relics of the Gondwanaland flora, Myrtle-Beech, (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*), and Sassafras, (*Atherosperma moschatum*) form the dominant canopy. Other species include the Huon pine, (*Dacrydium franklinii*), King Billy pine, (*Arthrotaxis selaginoides*), Pencil pine, (*Arthrotaxis cupressoides*) and the Celery-Top pine, (*Phyllocladus aspleniifolius*), all valuable craft and timber trees.

The Pandani, (*Richea pandanifolia*), leatherwood, (*Eucryphia lucida*) and various other less spectacular trees form the understory.

(continued page 50)

Tasmanian forests (continued)

With higher water table levels rainforest vegetation gives way to dense scrub. With even higher water table levels and repeated burning wet scrub/button grass communities are formed. In the higher altitudes, plateaux, mountain slopes and summits, plants are usually dwarfed and stunted compared to the same species at lower altitudes. Alpine herbfield as such does not occur in Tasmania to anywhere near the same extent as it does in the Australian Alps. Instead dwarf mountain forests/shrubby heathland, grassland swamps and cushion plants take over.

Further down the mountains on areas of fertile soil where the rainfall is between 750 and 1500mm. Eucalypt forests occur. Chief species are the valuable hardwoods, *Eucalyptus regnans*, (Mountain Ash/ Swamp gum), *E. delegatensis*, (Alpine Ash/ Gum top Stringy bark), *E. obliqua*, (Messmate/Brown top Stringybark) and *E. sieberi* (Tas. ironbark). Various rainforest species can grow as an understorey if the rainfall is high enough. At the border areas between the rainforest and the wetter sclerophyll, (ie. Eucalypt) forests, if fire is absent for 2-300 years the rainforest may out compete the Eucalypts and the area may revert to rainforest.

These hardwood forests are the main sources of supply for the timber production industry in Tasmania. Of Tasmania's 2.8 million hectares of forest, 1.2 million (approximately 60%) is available to the forest based industry as crownland. Almost all of this state owned productive area is Eucalypt forest, only 13% being rainforest.

In recent times the advent of the woodchipping industry has meant that usage of Tasmania's productive forests has escalated. Almost all of the woodchips produced in Tasmania are sent to Japan where they are processed and utilised in the paper and packaging industry. A dubious end for once great forest.

Contents

Travelling South	Page 49
Tasmanian forests	Page 49
A new home for an eighty-six year old Magnolia	Page 51
Three Tasmanian nurseries	Page 52
Garden Gear - power-driven tillers	Page 54
News briefs	Page 54
More on Amaryllis	Page 54
Horticultural therapy conference	Page 54
A historic garden in Tasmania	Page 55
Book reviews	Page 56
Quote of the month	Page 56
'Flora of Australia'	Page 56

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With well over half the state under woodchipping licence the situation is grim. In 1969-'70, 1079 sawlogs were cut and 732 were harvested for woodchips. In '77-'78, 906 sawlogs were cut and a massive 2751 trees were cut for chips (all figures in '000 tonnes).

The tragic thing is that although Tasmania produces the most forest product, (31.3% of the Australian total in '76-'77) it gets the least return of all the states per metre cubed, based on gross value, e.g. N.S.W.'s gets \$25.1/m³, Tasmania gets \$14.2/m³.

Because of the accelerated usage of hardwoods, the forest commission has and is expecting a shortfall in the availability of good timber, hence it's program of replanting areas with the Monterey pine, (*Pinus radiata*). In 1978 these plantings accounted for 1.5% of the state's forested area.

Many problems attend the planting of radiata, including the questionable ability of Australia's relatively poor soils to supply essential soil nutrients in the second and further rotations of the trees, the general problem of monocultural (single species) plantings, (i.e. resistance to parasites and disease) and finally the loss of substantial quantities of the native flora and fauna associated with the Eucalypt forest.

The forests are being turned more towards this 'tree farming' type of management both to meet the expected timber shortfall and because of the ease with which the timber can then be mechanically harvested. The effects of the long term use of radiata and the tree farming approach, (which is also used for Eucalypts) on the environment is unknown.

A small amount of rainforest is also within the state's wood resource, (13%). This form of rainforest differs greatly from the equatorial type of rainforest that occurs in patches along the north-eastern seaboard of the mainland. As it was largely derived from the ancient Gondwanaland flora this is hardly surprising. This type of temperate rainforest, (which occurs in only two other areas in the world), is dominated by a much smaller number of trees than its northern cousin.

The endemic pines of these areas are extremely slow-growing species, the Huon pine, (*Dacrydium franklinii*), in particular taking up to 2000 years to grow. These trees are extremely resistant to rot and infestation by marine organisms thus making them ideal boat-building and craft timbers. In fact one of the first industries in Tasmania was 'pining', using, to begin with, convict labour. Now however very few good specimens of Huon pine remain. Ironically at the moment there is a large amount of the wood available through timber merchants, as the logs that were salvaged from the Hydro Electric Commission's Middle Gordon/Lake Pedder scheme are being sold. Again the situation is tragic because in their rush to get the area flooded ahead of the rising tide of public opinion, the salvage operation was rushed and probably as much pine now rests at the bottom of the impoundment as was salvaged.

An urgent need exists for the habitat sites of, especially, Huon pine, to be protected. The Hydro Electric Commission's next planned dam on the Lower Gordon/Franklin rivers will inundate more of these precious areas. Given the slow growth of this tree further exploitation may see its extinction.

Tasmania's forests are a rich and valuable asset to the state, both in terms of their timber capability and their conservation value. With proper management, these values can be handed down for many generations to come. However at the present time the attitude seems to be one of make a fast buck and get out before the environmental and economic tides turn against you. The forests are not being managed for the future.

Tasmanian forests (continued)

It is therefore with some urgency that the Wilderness Society recommends that a full and independent study is undertaken of Tasmanian forests and their associated industries, that the export of unprocessed woodchips be phased out within 5 years, and that the forests be managed on a sustained yield basis, not the present 'hell for leather' development.

It is always easier to destroy than to build. In Tasmania, 750,000 hectares of land is classed as derelict, it is a matter of immediate concern that these areas be reforested and regen-

erated to full productivity. Only by the adoption of stringent conservation measures and careful land-use planning will future generations have a forest worthy of the name.

It is with this end in mind that the Wilderness Society is starting a campaign to preserve our native forests and to call for an enquiry into the forests industry. We are a voluntary organisation and rely for funding on the support of the public and people dedicated to the preservation of Wilderness, so if you can spare a few dollars donation or if you wish to join the society and help us in the fight, please write to us at 129 Bathurst Street, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000 or at our branch office nearest to you.

A new home for an eighty-six year old magnolia

contributed by Leo Schofield

Just on six years ago I bought a remarkable house in Queen Street, Woollahra (a Sydney inner suburb). Designed by John Bede Barlow, a colleague of the great J. Horbury Hunt, for Dr and Mrs P.J. Collins and built in 1892/3, it is the only one of Barlow's houses to survive without significant alteration.

Occupied by Dr Collins' surviving daughters right up to the time of purchase, it was in a sorry state of repair but still important enough to carry a National Trust classification.

St. Kevin's, as it was and is known, radically altered my thinking about decoration. Clearly I owed it to such an important piece of Australian architectural history to ensure that restoration was carried out in a sympathetic manner, and that the house was decorated 'en style'. Out went most of my Georgian furniture to be replaced with late 19th century pieces. Period wallpapers were re-printed in London. Australian paintings of the period were assembled.

But it was the garden that presented the most significant challenge.

Photographs exist of the front garden showing a rather tight little arrangement of beds. That was in 1895. However in the interim a number of fine trees had grown up, a mighty Camphor Laurel, a couple of *Ficus hillii* and a number of palms, mainly Bangalow and Kentia. These provided a pleasant if somewhat overgrown space between the house and busy Queen Street.

Naturally they were retained and no attempt to 're-create' the original garden was even contemplated.

Judy Cuppidge planned and planted the front garden of the house, with aspidistras, pink crinums and clivia under the palms, a long bed of clivia and white hydrangeas backed with a hedge of trachelospermum along the side path.

It has a pronouncedly Edwardian feel and might well have been the original planting.

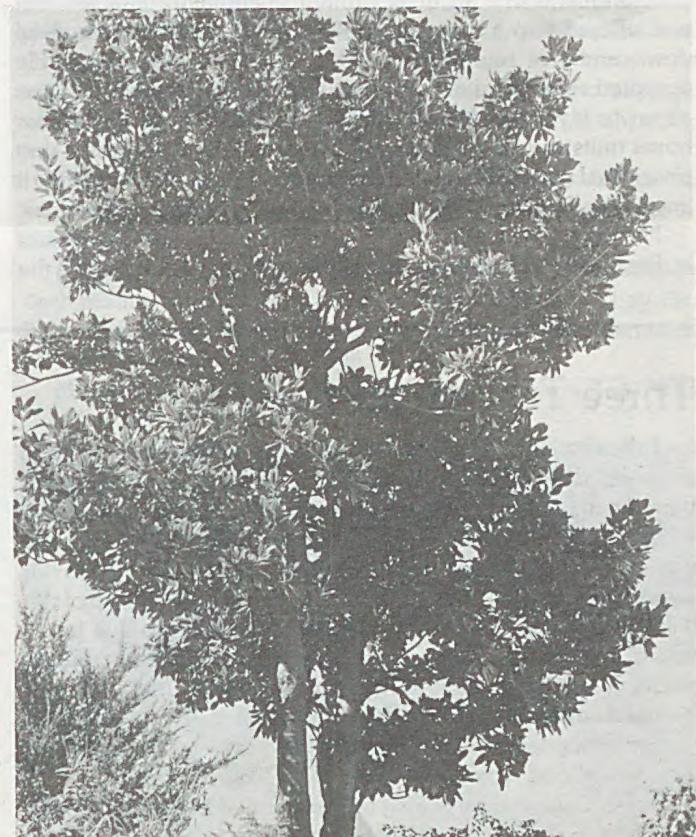
No evidence of the back garden survived - just a wilderness of broken asphalt. Because, built on two levels, it was largely sandstone I decided to make two brick paved terraces connected by a flight of eight steps.

The lower terrace planting, almost entirely in pots, is of white flowered plants, oleanders, *Hibiscus syriacus*, *Lilium auratum*, daisies, white plumbago, *japonica* and wistaria.

A hedge of white sasanquas, variety *Setsugekka*, divides the lower garden from the upper terrace which is planted in a very Diaghilevian colour scheme of purple and orange with paler tones of both colours.

But perhaps the most important element of all the garden areas is an eighty-six year old specimen *Magnolia grandiflora* which was removed from another site.

(continued on page 52)



Photography - John Lloyd
THE TREE IN 1982 - FIVE YEARS AFTER ITS TRANSPLANT.

An eighty-six year old Magnolia (continued)

Given room for only one specimen tree in a garden, which one would you choose? For me there was no choice. *Magnolia grandiflora* seems to me to have all the advantages - evergreen foliage that is beautiful and distinctive looking, superb flowers that have the added bonus of a heady perfume. In fact its only disadvantage is that it is a slow grower.

Deciding that I couldn't wait twenty or thirty years for the largest specimen available at a nursery to grow to a respectable height, I put an advertisement in the classified columns of the Sydney Morning Herald offering to buy a fully grown tree for removal. Curiously I had a number of replies.

A man in Dural had a beauty but it transpired that it rightly had a Tree Preservation Order over it.

Another superlative specimen at Coogee, in the grounds of Cliffbrook, a now demolished Italianate marine villa overlooking Thompson's Bay, proved too risky a proposition as it was growing hard against a massive sandstone retaining wall.

Col Pitman of Civic Trees had recommended to me a man who could move fully-grown trees, a landscape gardener by the name of Les Head. Les' enthusiasm for the project knew no bounds. He examined all the trees on offer, including two nice looking ones in the grounds of Petersham Public School, but all had a problem of one sort or another.

Then one day as I was leaving a film studio in Willoughby Road I noticed in the grounds of the Wheatleigh Guest House opposite a superb *Magnolia grandiflora*. It had not one but three trunks and a beautiful form.

I rang the Wheatleigh Guest House, established that the proprietor was one Mr Luigi Contini, eventually contacted him and offered him a thousand dollars for his tree, five hundred down and five hundred following a successful removal. He accepted readily. I didn't know at the time that a bulldozer was about to level the Wheatleigh Guest House to make way for home units and I might have gotten my tree for a fraction of that price. But I reckoned that he would think me a zany for wanting it anyway so I might as well make him an offer he couldn't refuse.

Having shaken hands with Mr Contini on the deal, I sent Les in. First he top pruned one side of the tree while root pruning the

opposite half and bagging it. Exposed or cut roots were sealed with Stockholm tar and the balling of the root began.

Six months later the tree, with its eight ton root ball, was ready for lifting. Mounted on a low loader and soaked at intervals along the way it made a stately progress from Willoughby to its new resting place.

There were, of course a few problems. First the low loader couldn't get into the lane behind the house because a stripped car had been dumped there. It was removed.

Then Les, who had planned to excavate a few further feet at the last minute to settle the tree in precisely at ground level, hit more sandstone. So the tree was simply sat on top of the sandstone, secured with guy wires and the root ball packed with more earth and a mountain of straw.

It was aggressively fertilized and promptly turned egg yellow.

Les and I decided to build a brick retaining wall around it and fill the bed thus created with top quality soil. Although never planned, this raised bed is now the most distinctive feature of my garden.

The tree looked most unhappy for about six months. Les and I talked to it a lot but mostly just waited patiently.

It had been moved in July 1977. It still looked wretched in December. Les looked at it again and we decided that if it began to drop leaves we would completely dis-bud it. Despite its sick appearance it had thrown a great number of buds. No leaves fell, the tree flowered but the flowers didn't look too wonderful against the khaki coloured foliage.

Now it has made splendid progress and is regaining the ball shape before pruning and looks even better than I had hoped. It has been underplanted with four varieties of orange day lilies and the bed bordered with ajuga and backed with *Thunbergia grandiflora* and orange bougainvilleas draped over a brick wall. And it flowers from late October until mid February, as do the day lilies.

I paid Les two thousand dollars for his trouble. It was a costly exercise but the tree has given me, my family and my neighbours pleasure far beyond its cost, a cost that in retrospect seems quite trivial.

Three Tasmanian nurseries

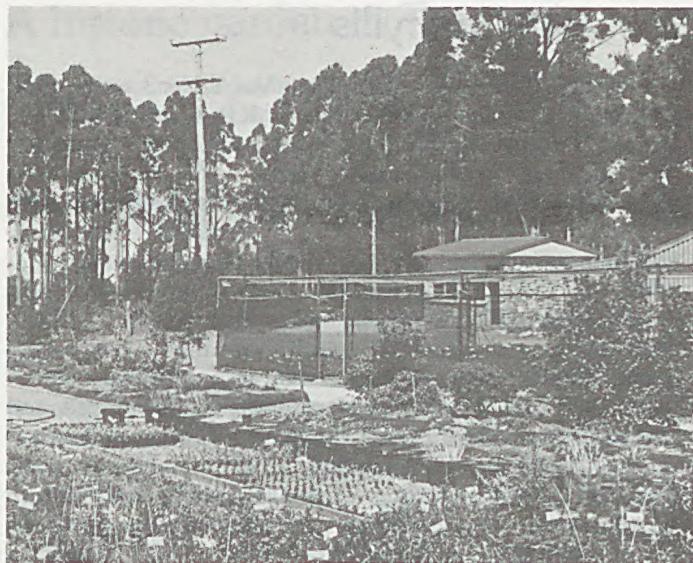
Take the Huon Highway out of Hobart; after thirty or forty minutes - depending on how fast you drive - you will see a sign pointing to Longley on your right hand side; continue up a steep winding hill until you reach the very top. Both humans and plants, you may think, need to be tough to survive a winter in this wind-swept spot, and you would be right. But here, on top of this hill, is a nursery that, in many respects, must be unique in the whole of Australia. If you are fascinated by rare and unusual plants you won't be able to tear yourself away until you have looked at every plant and read every label.

Ken Gillanders moved here from Victoria six years ago, taking the name Woodbank Nursery with him. Now his reputation has spread through the gardening cognoscenti of the country, but if you haven't already seen his nursery, or read through his plant list, either go there or, at least, write and ask for a list immediately - he will be pleased to send you one.

Each one will, of course, find his or her special delights. Here are a few names that may begin to get you excited. *Betula nana*, the dwarf Arctic Birch that grows to no more than about 38cm; *Cedrus deodara* 'Lime Glow', a tiny mound-like Deodar of 45cm; *Dacrydium laxifolium*, the smallest natural conifer known - it grows to no more than 30cm. Then there is *Myosotidium hortense*, the Chatham Island Forget-me-not that grows to 60cm; *Euphorbia griffithii* 'Fireglow', surely one of the best ornamental spurge; *Helleborus corsicus* (now more correctly *H. argutifolius*), one of the largest Hellebores and one of the best; *Jasminum parkeri*; *Hydrangea strigosa*; *Magnolia wilsonii*; *Michelia velutina*; *Rosemarinus* 'Blue Lagoon' a new semi-prostrate cultivar with flowers of a deeper lilac-blue than those of the type. And that is only a few - the list of alpine plants alone covers a few foolscap pages.

Make a special note of WOODBANK NURSERIES (K.D. & L.M. Gillanders) Huon Highway, Longley, Tasmania, 7103.

(continued on page 53)



WOODBANK NURSERY, LONGLEY



CHANDLER'S NURSERY, SANDY BAY, HOBART.

Turn off Sandy Bay Road in Hobart, up Queen Street, and halfway up on the left hand side you will find a nursery that is, for quite different reasons, very nearly unique in these days of self-service supermarket type garden centres. Chandler's Nursery was founded by William Chandler in 1888, and has been on this same site in Queen Street for eighty-five years.

William's father became a gardener at Government House when he came to Hobart from England, and William started as an apprentice in the same gardens. Eventually he left Government House to start his own nursery. He was succeeded in it by his two sons, Bill and Perc. Bill died in 1979 and was in turn succeeded by his son Ted, who is to-day in charge of the business. Perc is still active in the propagating shed, and Ted's son Greg is ready to carry on the family tradition into a fourth generation.

What makes this nursery unusual to-day is that some 95% of the plants sold are propagated on the premises - most of them by Perc. Chandlers still grow all their own seedlings, which are pricked out into, and sold from, wooden flats - three dozen to the flat. And there is nothing but quality plants here, for the Chandlers and their staff of eight know how to grow plants. Look over the door leading into the office and you will see the 'Nurseryman of the Year' Award from the Australian Nurserymen's Association, given in 1977.

Not many other nurseries to-day have the double white gypsophila 'Bristol Fairy' or the double pink 'Flamingo' grafted onto the single white *G. paniculata* - the only satisfactory way of growing these plants but a tedious and uncertain one, even in skilled hands a 60% 'take' is good going. And here too you will find the true Bleeding Heart, *Dicentra spectabilis*, not the species which often masquerades under that name, *D. formosa*.

But, just because Chandlers choose to stick to time-honoured practices and produce their own quality plants, they are certainly not 'old-fashioned', and are quite ready to move with the times when they see an advantage in doing so. For example some fern varieties now come from a tissue culture laboratory, and in one glasshouse were stocks of the new *Ficus decora* 'Black Prince'. For a friendly, efficient little nursery where you will get good honest advice and good honest service, remember this name - CHANDLER'S NURSERY, Queen Street, Sandy Bay, Hobart, Tasmania, 7005.

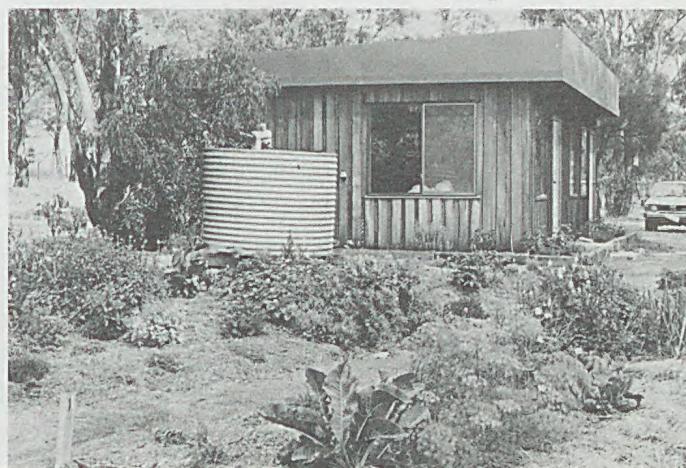
At Granton, a few kilometres north-east of Hobart, you turn off Forest Road just past the train park, up Middle Street - it's little more than a dirt track, and near the top of the hill you will see a sign pointing to the left 'Middle Earth Herbs'.

Here three enterprising young people, Jan Lee, Robin Gale and Mike Davis, have established a delightful little herb nursery. They have been going a mere two years but already have built up an impressive list. Of particular interest are their scented-leaved geraniums - they list twenty-four varieties. Then there is both pink and white flowered lavender, good old Golden Rod and Goat's Rue, fifteen prostrate thymes, red and blue verbena in addition to the commoner pink and mauve. In the culinary section there is purple Basil, evergreen chives, hot (Asian) mint, tree and Welsh onions, and Caraway.

They also provide a landscaping and advisory service for those who wish to plant a herb garden, and make a speciality of chamomile lawns.

The nursery is open to the public only on the last Sunday in each month, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment. They also have a stall in Salamanca Market each Saturday between November 7th and March 27th.

MIDDLE EARTH HERBS, Middle Street, Granton, Tas. 7013



MIDDLE EARTH HERBS, GRANTON.

GARDEN GEAR

Power driven tillers

Victa have introduced a range of power driven tillers with 3, 3.5 and 8 horsepower engines that are ideal for home garden use, and invaluable where a fairly large, and possibly hitherto neglected, area has to be prepared for planting or sowing. These tillers range in price from around \$370 and can be found in most leading mower specialists and garden stores.



VICTA TILLER

News briefs

The seaweed-amino acid-enzyme preparation referred to in GARDEN CUTTINGS Vol 1, No 4, has been used in the U.S. to produce a world record corn yield.

The Australian Desert Lime, *Eremocitrus glauca*, is being used by the U.S.D.A. Science and Education Administration Horticultural Research Laboratory in Orlando, Florida, in a breeding programme to produce extra hardy commercial citrus varieties.

A British medical researcher, Sir Richard Doll, writing in 'The Grower', says he believes that a diet rich in raw carrots and fresh green vegetables can reduce the risk of all types of cancer by as much as 40%. His studies of 16,000 patients showed a vitamin deficiency in every one of those who developed cancer.

A major horticultural exhibition is to be held in Munich in 1983. Two years ago 6,000 trees were planted on the site by setting their root balls on the existing gravel base (the area was originally a gravel pit) and anchoring them with cables, then placing a mound of pulverized bark around each root ball. Because of abundant air in the root area and adequate precipitation the trees have quickly acclimatized to their new location. The area will finally be filled with topsoil to the tops of the root balls.

More on amaryllis

Following the article on Amaryllis in Vol. 1, No. 3, we received an interesting letter from Mr William R.P. Welch, of Carmel Valley, California. Mr Welch has been directing all his energies into breeding Narcissus of the Tazetta type and now has the largest collection in existence; in 1980 he started hybridizing Amaryllis and aims to do the same with them. As he is now only twenty-three years old, his is no mean accomplishment.

He now has a great many Amaryllis seedlings, most of them derived from bulbs obtained by Mr Les Hannibal, of Fair Oaks, California, one of the foremost authorities in the world on this genus. Mr Welch reports that he had one particular plant in bloom last year, late flowering and with ruffled petals and unusually large flowers of a fairly deep red, the stem too was unusually red. The interesting thing about it was that this plant produced a high percentage of tiny 'buckshot' seeds, and Mr Welch goes on to say that he has noticed a relationship between plants with a high proportion of tiny seeds with those with the most perfectly radial (that is, not at all sideways facing) head, and broad foliage. These are typical *Brunsvigia* characteristics, and he theorizes that those with tiny seeds are throwbacks in the direction of *Brunsvigia orientalis*. He quotes Mr Hannibal as saying that it is *B. orientalis*, and not *B. josephinae*, in the background of the multiflora hybrids, the open bowl-shaped flowers of the multifloras being a *B. orientalis* characteristic. Mr Hannibal also believes that at least some of *B. josephinae* grown in Australia and New Zealand are not the true species but, differing from the species in having enough mixed ancestry to permit them to be grown in wet summer regions where the species itself would rot.

Mr Welch is anxious to establish correspondence with as many people interested in Amaryllis as possible, and where possible to exchange seeds. He is also anxious to find a source of Amaryllis bulbs. He says in his letter "I certainly have an interest in tracking down and preserving old-time things that never get named or introduced commercially".

If anyone would like to get in touch with Mr Welch his address is: Mr. William R.P. Welch, Garzas Road, Carmel Valley, California 93924, United States of America.

Horticultural therapy conference

The Tenth Annual Conference of the National Council for Therapy and Rehabilitation through Horticulture will be held in Vancouver from the 16th to the 19th August, 1982. The theme of the Conference is 'Never too old to grow - plants and people'. The programme will include a wide range of topics focussing on horticulture as a teaching/learning aid, a medium for health promotion, intergenerational interaction, rehabilitation and recreation, a career, and the use of public space for horticultural therapy.

Further details may be obtained from Dr Roy L. Taylor, Director, The Botanical Gardens, University of British Columbia, 6501 NW Marine Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 2W5, Canada.

A historic garden in Tasmania

Beaufront, near Ross, is an elegant mainly single story house, built in 1837 of local sandstone, with a central bow to its front facade that gives it its name.

An avenue of massive Monterey Cypresses (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) encloses the approach road to-day, but these are probably not the original planting, since the Monterey Cypress is thought not to have been introduced into Australia until about 1850. This approach road leads to the wide turning circle at the side of the house, in the centre of which is a carved sandstone fountain.

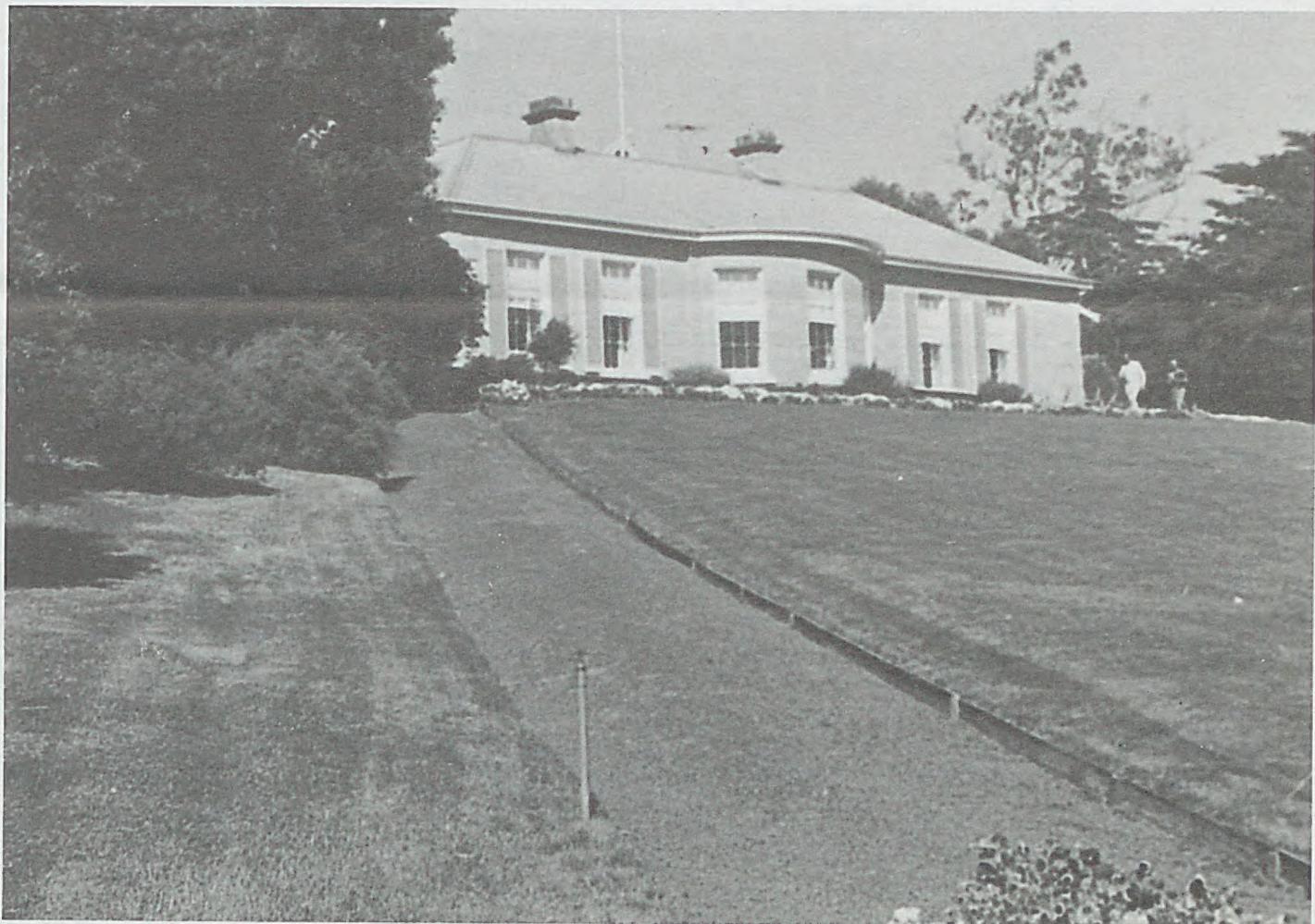
Along the front of the house runs a wide stone flagged terrace. Below the terrace and running the full length of it are herbaceous borders, and below that is a large sloping lawn, framed on either side with trees and shrubs, and, as was the case with many of these nineteenth century country houses, a superb view of the surrounding countryside.

This central area, therefore, has a fairly simple design, but to the north of the house the scene changes. High stone walls covered with climbing roses and honeysuckle enclose the service courtyard, there is a swimming pool enclosed by shrubs, an unusual avenue, almost forty metres in length, of agapanthus, there are massed rhododendrons and hydrangeas - one partic-

ularly impressive plant being a *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora* some 2 metres high. Past a stone well-head filled with succulents one comes to the kitchen and picking gardens, one of the few surviving examples of what was a necessary adjunct to every house of substance. Plants growing here, all in neat rectangular beds, include roses, zinnias, marigolds and erigeron. There is a fine asparagus bed, almost as old as the house itself and still bearing well, a fruit cage filled with raspberries and currants, and a wooden 'trough' for growing celery - a variation on the old method of growing celery in trenches, in which the earth from the tops of the trenches was gradually piled up against the growing plants to keep the stems 'blanched'. Lime trees (the fruiting kind and not those trees more correctly called Lindens that are common in many of these Tasmanian gardens) grow against a north-facing wall, as does a yellow-flowered *Clematis tangutica*.

Beaufront is a fine example of a large nineteenth century garden, with all the facilities associated with country house living at that time, and is still immaculately maintained by its present owners, Mr and Mrs von Bibra.

(Note: Beaufront was one of several historic gardens visited during the Annual Conference on the Australian Garden History Society last February. We hope to publish short notes about other gardens visited in later issues.)



BEAUFONT - THE FRONT FAÇADE

Book reviews

Nineteenth Century Plant Nursery Catalogues of South East Australia, a bibliography by R. Polya. La Trobe University Library publication No. 24; retail price about \$12.50.

Rosemary Polya has carried out some fascinating research into old nursery catalogues which will be invaluable to those concerned with the authentic restoration of nineteenth century gardens. Over 160 catalogues were located, and facsimile reproductions of pages from many of them are included, as well as brief notes on the history of the nurseries and their founders.

This book could well be the starting point for even more extensive research into the introduction of exotic plants during the later part of the last century, and of the types of plants in most general cultivation in gardens during that period.

Australia's first Gardening Guide of 1806; observations on gardening by George Howe, with an introduction by Victor Crittenden. Mulini Press, Canberra; retail price about \$3.00.

Although this little book has been attributed to George Howe, publisher of the Sydney Gazette and the first Government Printer, it is by no means certain who wrote it. Quite possibly it was George Suttor, the first nurseryman in New South Wales, or it could have been the man who looked after the first Government House garden at Sydney Cove. The guide is a brief one and, not surprisingly, is concerned only with the growing of vegetables and fruit trees. It assumes that the reader will already have some horticultural knowledge; September, for example is 'the proper season to graft fruit trees' but exact instructions on this procedure are not given. The guide is important as the first of its kind and it conveys some idea of the types of vegetables and fruit that were grown in the first days of the settlement.

Quote of the month

"When asked when I would finish the garden I replied "Never-I hope". Margery Fish (We made a Garden)

The Front Garden, the story of the Cottage Garden in Australia, by Victor Crittenden. Mulini Press, Canberra; retail price about \$6.00.

This little book may be described as a gentle meander through a historical sequence of front gardens, from early settlement gardens to the present day. It's all a little inconsequential but it's pleasant, easy reading. At times Mr Crittenden seems to wander a little from his subject - bush houses, surely, are not normally part of the front garden. He also makes a few comments which are open to question; for example are marigolds, pansies, dahlias and stocks really disappearing from front gardens, and are yuccas 'again popular'? The evidence seems to point in the opposite direction. But even if you don't learn very much, you'll enjoy reading this book.

'Flora of Australia'

'Flora of Australia' has been planned as a series of approximately fifty volumes, designed for use by people with some botanical knowledge who require information on the names, characteristics, distribution and habitat of Australian plants. The series will be co-ordinated by the Bureau of Flora and Fauna, Department of Home Affairs and Environment, Canberra, and will describe all known native and naturalized plants of Australia, estimated to be more than 20,000 species.

The only comparable publication is George Bentham's 'Flora Australiensis' written in England and published between 1863 and 1878, which describes 8125 species.

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garden cuttings

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